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Third Amendment & Response
to Office Action dated October 20, 2004
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REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 24, 26, 27-30, and 32-46 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action dated October 20, 2004, claims 6, 7, 27, 30, 32, and 46 were allowed. Claim 41 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten as an independent claim. Claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 26, 28, 29, 33, 34, and 36 are canceled hereby. Claims 20, 35, and 37 are amended. Support for the amendment to claim 37 can be found at least at page 13, lines 21-23 of the specification. Claim 41 is rewritten in independent form. No new matter is presented.

II. INTERVIEW SUMMARY

The undersigned would like to thank Examiner Stokes for her helpful comments and suggestions during the telephonic interview conducted on January 4, 2005 and during subsequent discussions.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.133(b), the following description is submitted as a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action. The following statement is intended to comply with the requirements of MPEP §713.04 and expressly sets forth: (A) a brief description of the nature any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted; (B) identification of the claims discussed; (C) identification of specific prior art discussed; (D) identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed; (E) the general thrust of the principal arguments; and (F) a general indication of any other pertinent matters; and (G) the general results or outcome of the interview, if appropriate.

- (A) No exhibits were shown or demonstrations conducted.
- (B) The pending claims were discussed generally.
- (C) U.S. Patent No. 4,349,921 to Kuntz was discussed generally.
- (D) Proposed amendments to claims 20, 35, and 37 were discussed.
- (E) The general thrust of the discussion was whether U.S. Patent No. 4,349,921 to Kuntz discloses the claimed invention.
- (F) No other pertinent matters were discussed.

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(G) It was agreed that a response would be submitted for Examiner Stokes' consideration.

In the event that the foregoing record is not considered complete and accurate, the Examiner is respectfully requested to bring any incompleteness or inaccuracy to the attention of the undersigned.

III. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

In the Office Action, claim 41 was objected as being dependent upon a rejected independent claim. As such, claim 41 is rewritten as an independent claim including all the limitations of claim 40, which claim 41 depended from.

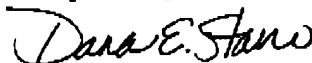
IV. CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed October 20, 2004 and is believed to place all claims in the application (claims 6, 7, 20, 27, 30, 32, 35, 37-46) in condition for allowance. Such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant reserves the right to defend in later prosecution and in courts of law all claims herein on these and other grounds, including without limitation presenting challenges to any and all grounds for rejections stated in the Office Action.

If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved by telephone conference, or if there are any informalities that may be addressed by an Examiner's amendment, please contact the undersigned at (404) 879-2437.

Respectfully submitted,



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